EXHIBIT 4

John Wojciechowski 11/03/2021

1	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
2	FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
3	SOUTHERN DIVISION
4	
5	EUGENE HABICH,
6	Plaintiff,
7	vs. Civil Action
8	No. 2:20-cv-12528
9	Hon. David M. Lawson
10	Magistrate Judge Anthony Patti
11	WAYNE COUNTY, CORPORAL JOHN WOJCIECHOWSKI,
12	and DEPUTY CHRISTOPHER MITTLESTAT, in
13	their individual and official capacities,
14	Defendants,
15	/
16	PAGE 1 TO 101
17	
18	The Deposition of JOHN WOJCIECHOWSKI,
19	Taken at 500 Griswold,
20	Detroit, Michigan,
21	Commencing at 10:17 a.m.,
22	Wednesday, November 3, 2021,
23	Before Jill Sickels, CSR 0162.
24	
25	



Pages 18..21

Page 21

- 1 and then we'll go on from there.
- 2 A. Well, let's put it this way. If I think there's
- 3 contraband in a vehicle or something like that, I'll use
- 4 a vehicle because it's much smaller, but I'm not going
- 5 to let somebody go in it until I see that we either go
- through it and make sure that it's safe -- you know, 6
- 7 we're not going to -- I'm not going to let somebody go
- 8 in there and, like, destroy evidence if I think there's
- 9 evidence in there, put it that way.
- 10 Q. How about if you had seen the same contraband that we
- 11 talked about in our hypothetical being behind a picture
- 12 window and you would call your supervisor, what if you
- 13 saw it in the flower bed right next to the siding on the
- 14 house?
- 15 A. Nobody's going to go by that flower bed.
- 16 Q. Okay. But would you seize the contraband?
- 17 A. Well, in a way that would be kind of like seizing it. I
- 18 might not physically touch it but I'm still going to
- 19 seize that area.
- 20 Q. Okay. Until when?
- 21 A. Until my supervisor is contacted and we go from there.
- 22 Q. So you kind of treat the area around the house the same
- as you would the house itself? 23
- 24 A. Sure.
- 25 Q. Why is that?

to do?

- 2 A. What do you mean, to walk away from it?
- 3 Q. To walk away from it. Say a guy's coming with you and
- he's got his hand on something in a holster.
- 5 A. He's given verbal commands, you know.
- 6 Q. And if he's walking toward you and he's still talking,
- what happens next?
- 8 A. You still give him verbal commands.
- 9 Q. Is it a threat to the officer if he's doing that?
- 10 A. Yeah, it could be.
- 11 O. It could be, okay.
- 12 A. Uh-huh.
- 13 Q. Now, let's talk about the incident that brought us here
- 14 today. When is the first time you heard about this
- 15
- 16 A. I want to say it was on the 1st of August.
- 17 Q. Of 2020?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Who told you about it?
- 20 A. Sergeant Glatfelter.
- 21 Q. What did he tell you?
- 22 A. He told me -- he actually gave me the plate. He told me
- 23 -- I don't know if he told me find this car or find out
- 24 what I can on the car.
- 25 Q. And what did you interpret that to mean?

- 1 A. Well, basically he told me there was an incident
- involving Corporal Spaulding and that's -- you know, I
- 3 think he said something like, If you can find this car,
- find it, or if you can find out anything about it, let 4
- me know.
- 6 Q. And what did you do after that?
- 7 A. I started looking into it. I started -- I ran the
- plate. It came back to the registered owner, Mr.
- Habich.
- 10 O. Habich.
- 11 A. Habich, okay. And it came back to an address in
- 12 Dearborn, and Mr. Habich came back to the same address
- 13 in Dearborn.
- 14 Q. And what did you do then?
- 15 A. Mittlestat was available so both myself and Deputy
- Mittlestat went to the Dearborn address on Firestone. 16
- 17 As we walked up to the house, I noticed that the house
- 18 was -- it had a lot of surveillance cameras on it, okay,
- 19 so I actually notified my partner of that because that's
- 20 actually a safety issue. He went off, stood off to the
- 21 side of the house. I went to the door, stood to the
- 22 side of the door, knocked on the door. No answer.
- 23 Q. Can you clarify for me, why is it a safety issue when
- 24 there's surveillance cameras?
- 25 A. Because we don't know if that guy -- if there's somebody

- 1 A. If there's evidence there, you're protecting that
- evidence. You might be protecting yourself if it's a 2
- 3 weapon. Now, if I'm going to -- if I see a gun in a
- 4 flower pot and there's a guy standing there and he's
- 5 going to lunge for it, we're going to talk about a
- 6 different ball game.
- 7 Q. What will you do in that instance?
- 8 A. Whatever I have to do to walk away from there.
- 9 Q. Including drawing your weapon if necessary.
- 10 A. Yeah. If I've got to protect you, anybody else around 11 there, yes.
- 12 Q. For example, if a guy is coming toward you with what
- 13 looks to be a weapon in a holster and his hand on it and
- 14 he's approaching you, you're going to react, right?
- 15 A. I'm going to react, but you said it looks like a weapon.
- 16 You didn't say it was a weapon. There's a difference
- 17 between what looks like a weapon and what is a weapon.
- 18 Q. Exactly. What do you do in that instance? Do you know
- 19 the difference at sight whether it's a weapon or just
- 20 looks like a weapon?
- 21 A. At some point, you're going to find out if it's a weapon
- 22 or not.
- 23 Q. Right.
- 24 A. You've got to look at it that way.
- 25 Q. That's true. To walk away from that, what are you going



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- 1 in that house that has a gun pointed at us.
- 2 Q. Understood. Okay.
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. What happened next?
- 5 A. I knocked on the door. There was no answer. Knocked on
- 6 the door again. There was no answer. And I was walking
- 7 off the porch and I don't know -- I seen a neighbor and
- 8 I asked the neighbor if the guy lived there, Mr. Habich,
- 9 and he told me that he lived there but he wasn't home
- 10 because there was no car in the driveway, okay.
- 11 Q. Did the neighbor give you a name, identify himself in
- 12 any way?
- 13 A. I want to say he lived directly across the street. I'm
- 14 not positive if I do have his direct -- if I still have
- 15 his name or not.
- 16 Q. Would that be written down somewhere?
- 17 A. It might be in my notes. Usually, when -- I kind of
- 18 like go back to, I guess you can say, the way we did
- 19 things, like, when I worked for the apprehension teams.
- 20 Like, when I went to the house, I had a picture of the
- 21 guy. You definitely want to know who you're looking for
- and everything. So if I talk to somebody, I usually,
- 23 like, would flip it over and I write notes on the back
- of it, or if it's folded up, I open it up and write
- 25 notes on it. Now, if I still have them, I'm not sure.
 - Page 23
- 1 Q. What's your habit in retaining your notes?
- 2 A. What do you mean?
- 3 Q. Do you customarily file your notes somewhere or --
- 4 A. Well, yeah. We used to call them jackets, but it's just
- 5 like that folder you have there. Because you're
- 6 building -- you know, I mean, you might go look for
- 7 somebody one day and you put notes in there, like, where
- 8 you've been and who you talked to or something like that
- 9 but you might not work on that file for, like, the next
- 10 week or 2 weeks, you know, so.
- 11 Q. Certainly.
- 12 A. But at least I can go back and tell, hey, you know, this
- is what we did, so.
- 14 Q. Okay. Got it. All right. After that, what happened
- 15 next?
- 16 A. Actually, I talked to the gentleman. I remember his
- 17 wife. They were in -- he pulled up in an SUV and I
- 18 remember talking to him, not her, and he said that -- he
- 19 said that he talked to him and he said that he was going
- 20 to be gone for a couple days. He was going to go stay
- 21 with his girlfriend. And I asked him if he knew his
- family and he said not really well. He didn't know
- 23 their names or anything like that. He didn't even know
- 24 the girlfriend's name.
- 25 Q. What did you do after that?

- 1 A. I went and did some research and I pulled up some
- 2 previous addresses that I found on him and I actually
- 3 started driving around until I came to the Olive
- 4 address.
- 5 Q. When you said you pulled up previous addresses, what
- system or database did you use?
- 7 A. We can use LEIN. I've actually used Google, too.
- 8 Q. Which one did you use here?
- 9 A. I think I used both of them.
- 10 Q. Okay. And go ahead. You came to the Olive Street
- 11 address in Romulus?
- 12 A. Right. And the car was parked right there in the
- 13 driveway.
- 14 O. What did you see from the street?
- 15 A. The whole car. The whole driver's side of the car and
- 16 the whole front of the car.
- 17 Q. I'm going to ask what's going to be a very silly
- 18 question --
- 19 A. Okav.
- 20 Q. -- with an obvious answer. You could not see inside the
- 21 car from the street, could you?
- 22 A. I can see through the windshield.
- 23 Q. You could not see into the trunk, correct?
- 24 A. Not in the trunk, no.
- 25 Q. And you could not see below the dash, correct?

- 1 A. No, not below the dash. Not from the outside.
- 2 O. Not from the street.
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. After you saw the -- well, let's talk about seeing it
- 5 from the street. Was the car parked with the front of
- 6 the car toward the street or the back of the car toward
- 7 the street?
- 8 A. The car was backed in the driveway along the side of the
- 9 house and there was another -- I think it was an SUV
- 10 behind it. Facing inward, though.
- 11 Q. Was the car backed in in front of the front of the house
- even with the front of the house or behind the front of
- 13 the house?
- 14 A. I want to say it was even with the front of the house.
- 15 There was no fence, no gate.
- 16 O. How close was the car to the side of the house?
- 17 A. What's normal width of a driveway? I mean, you could
- 18 walk up -- you could walk between the house and the car
- 19 but I don't know --
- 20 Q. Could you have fit another car in between?
- 21 A. No, no, no, no.
- 22 Q. Within a car length?
- 23 A. Less than a car length.
- 24 Q. Less than a car length, okay.
- 25 A. Less than the width of a car.



John Wojciechowski 11/03/2021

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- 1 Q. That's a better way to put it. You're absolutely right.
- 2 Okay. Very good. What did you do -- let me stop again.
- 3 The car was parked with the front of the car toward the
- 4 street. What did you see on the car?
- 5 A. There's a push bar with what appeared to be an emergency
- 6 light on it, in the grille between the push bar, there
- 7 was emergency -- what appeared to be emergency lights,
- 8 and through the windshield it looked like it had a light
- 9 bar on it.
- 10 Q. Is it illegal, in your opinion, to have a push bar?
- 11 A. No. Not that I know of, it's not.
- 12 Q. And were the lights operating at the time you saw them?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. What did you do after that?
- 15 A. Actually, I notified Sergeant Glatfelter that I found
- 16 the vehicle and I believe that's when he had Deputy
- 17 Mittlestat make my location. Being a one-man person,
- 18 I'm not going to go up to the house by myself. That's
- 19 our policy.
- 20 Q. And just to have a clear record, when you say make the
- 21 location, that means come to the location?
- 22 A. Correct.
- 23 Q. While you were waiting for -- is it Deputy Mittlestat?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Okay. While you were waiting for Deputy Mittlestat to
 - Page 27

2

- get there, what did you do?A. I actually sat back, I think, a couple houses and then
- 3 waited.
- 4 Q. How long did that take?
- 5 A. I wouldn't say more than 10, maybe 15 minutes.
- 6 Q. Once Deputy Mittlestat was in range or nearby, what
- 7 happened next?
- 8 A. He, Deputy Mittlestat, actually, like, pulled up in
- 9 front of the house on, I guess you'd say, the north side
- $10 \qquad \text{of the driveway and I pulled up more on the south side} \\$
- 11 of the driveway.
- 12 O. And then what did you do?
- 13 A. We both got out of our vehicles.
- 14 Q. Where did you go?
- 15 A. We both started walking up the driveway. I noticed that
- 16 there was a dog out so I asked about the dog, if the dog
- 17 bites or anything.
- 18 Q. Was the dog leashed at any time?
- 19 A. I don't believe it was. I don't think it was.
- 20 Q. Did the dog attack anybody?
- 21 A. No, no, uh-uh.
- 22 Q. Go ahead. After you asked about the dog, what else did
- you do?
- 24 A. Then I inquired -- there's a gentleman there. Mr.
- 25 Harbich?

- 1 O. Habich.
- 2 A. Habich and a lady, and I asked Mr. Habich -- I either
- 3 asked him if he was the owner of the car or he knew who
- 4 the owner of the car was. That I'm not sure. I would
- 5 have to -- I don't know if I've got that in my report.
- 6 But I know I did ask him for ID.
- 7 Q. Did he ask why you were there?
- 8 A. At first, no.
- 9 Q. While you were asking Mr. Habich for ID, what was Deputy
- 10 Mittlestat doing?
- 11 A. I believe he started walking around the vehicle and he
- 12 checked the plate on the vehicle to make sure it was the
- 13 right vehicle that we were looking for.
- 14 Q. Which side of the vehicle did he walk on? The side by
- the house or the side on the other side?
- 16 A. I think in between the house and the car. I think
- 17 that's where he was.
- 18 Q. And where were you and Mr. Habich at that time?
- 19 A. I think we were still in front of the car. Maybe a
- 20 little bit off to the driver's side, if that makes
- 21 sense.
- 22 Q. Did Mr. Habich give you ID?
- 23 A. Yes, he did.
- 24 Q. What did you say next?
- 25 A. I think I started inquiring about the car but I don't
 - Page 29
- 1 remember the exact questions I asked him. But I think,

I know I did ask him if he owned the car.

- 3 O. What did he say?
- 4 A. He told me that -- I think at first he told me he owned
- 5 the car, and then I think he told me that it belonged to
- 6 a security company.
- 7 Q. All right.
- 8 A. And then --
- 9 Q. And what else did you say?
- $10\,$ A. $\,$ I asked him what security company, and I think he was
- 11 hesitant about even answering me on it. He didn't want
- to give me no information, because I even -- when we got
- down to impounding the car, I told him I needed the
- 14 security company's contact, his boss's contact, a phone
- 15 number and everything, and he said, No, I'll have him
- 16 call you.
- 17 Q. So he was reluctant to give you information?
- 18 A. Yep.
- 19 Q. Was he also reluctant to give you the car?
- 20 A. He was actually -- no, he was actually pretty good about
- 21 it when I explained what happened. He actually told me,
- 22 you know, when I told him what -- well, actually, I
- asked him what happened and he told me what happened
- 24 with Corporal Spaulding in his words, okay.
- 25 Q. Yeah, I notice you looking at your --



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Pages 30..33

- 1 A. Well, because I don't remember it word for word, but I
- 2 know it's in here, so.
- 3 Q. Okay. When did you decide to impound the car?
- 4 A. Actually, we -- it was going to be impounded because
- 5 there's an investigation going on. A possible criminal
- 6 investigation.
- 7 Q. Did you know that when you first walked up to Mr.
- 8 Habich?
- 9 A. If that was the car, yes.
- 10 Q. That you were going to impound it right -- you knew that
- 11 when you walked up to him?
- 12 A. Well, after I started talking to him, yes.
- 13 Q. Before or after he told you his story?
- 14 A. I don't know if I realized -- I think once we got the
- 15 plate, we knew that that was the car that was involved.
- 16 I think at that point I knew that I was going to impound
- 17 the vehicle for investigation.
- 18 Q. When you impound for investigation, what is the
- 19 procedure?

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- 20 A. Well, I told him -- I let him know that I was going to
- 21 impound the vehicle and he goes, Can I get my stuff out
- 22 of the vehicle? I said, What kind of stuff are you
- 23 talking about? He said, Some personal stuff. I said,
- What do you have in there? And I think he told me, Some
- $\,$ 25 $\,$ $\,$ tools and some other things, and I told him, Well, we're
 - going to have to go through that vehicle first to make
- 2 sure there's no weapons in there. Because I'm not going
- 3 to say, Oh, yeah, go ahead, and the guy reached
- 4 underneath his car or his front seat and pulls out a gun
- 5 and shoots everybody, so.
- 6 Q. What is the procedure that Wayne County has you follow
- 7 to impound a vehicle?
- 8 A. When we impound a vehicle, it's either for investigative
- 9 purposes or, like, let's say driving on a suspended
- 10 license. We're going to impound that vehicle because
- 11 that person should not be driving that car, but we're
- also going to search that vehicle for an inventory
- 13 search. Somebody might leave their computer in there.
- 14 Somebody might leave money in there. You know,
- 15 something like that. Sometimes you find weapons in
- 16 cars. Sometimes you find drugs in cars.
- 17 Q. When do you fill out an inventory? When do you fill out
- 18 that inventory, right --
- 19 A. I usually write it --
- 20 Q. -- then and there on the spot?
- 21 A. on the tow tags. I usually write it on the tow tags.
- 22 Or if it ends up being, like, evidence or something like
- 23 that, it ends up on a PJ 400, which is a --
- 24 Q. Let me back up. You said you write it on the tow tag.
- When do you write the tow tag?

- 1 A. Before the tow truck driver gets there because we
- 2 usually give them a copy.
- 3 Q. You give a copy to the tow truck driver?
- 4 A. Correct.
- 5 O. Do you give a copy to the person who owns the car?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. Why not?
- 8 A. Was never told to. Never -- that's not the way our
- 9 policy tells us.
- 10 Q. We've been talking little bits about a policy. Is that
- 11 a written policy or is that --
- 12 A. That's the way I was trained, the way I was FTO'd is you
- 13 fill out the tow tag. The only thing that I give the
- 14 driver, or, you know, the owner of the car or the person
- 15 -- because sometimes the cars we tow aren't the owner's
- 16 car, we give them a copy of the Martin's business card,
- 17 okay. But I think in this case, because of the
- 18 situation, he was told that the car was being held for
- 19 investigative purposes and I believe he was given a
- 20 number to Sergeant Glatfelter's office.
- 21 O. Did he --
- 22 A. To contact him.
- 23 Q. Did he ask you whether you had a warrant?
- 24 A. No, he didn't.
- 25 Q. Did he ask you whether there was an incident number?

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- 1 A. No, he didn't.
- 2 Q. Did he ask you whether there was a case number?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. At any time, did you say that you were going to be
- 5 taking the car whether he consented or didn't consent?
- 6 A. No. He never even -- that conversation -- he was
- 7 actually pretty calm through this whole thing.
- 8 Q. Well --
- 9 A. Yeah.
- 10 Q. You had the gun and he didn't, right?
- 11 A. That might have been the way he looked at it. That's
- 12 not the way we looked at it.
- 13 Q. Okay. Were you trained that when you impound a car as
- part of an investigation, you need a search warrant?
- 15 A. No. We don't always need a search warrant.
- 16 Q. When do you or do you not need a warrant to seize a car?
- 17 A. When do I what?
- 18 Q. When do you need a search warrant to seize a car for
- 19 investigation, to impound a car for investigation?
- 20 A. I don't think I've ever used -- I can't remember. Let's
- 21 just say I'll put it this way. I can't recall ever
- 22 getting a warrant to seize a car unless it was, like, --
- 23 and I'm not saying that I did this, but I think it's
- 24 been done a couple times for, like, like, felonies or

something like that. Like, a murder case or something



11/03/2021

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4 A. Correct.

8 BY MS. DOWNEY:

report?

16 O. The one that --

17 A. The second one?

18 O. Yes, sir. Number 3.

car at any time?

38..41 Page 40 Pages

- 1 depends. It depends. Like, on the bottom, if it's
- 2 involved in an accident, I might put on there accident.
- 3 In this incident, I put down there that it was set up
- 4 like a police vehicle, had police lights, CAD, and just
- some information that was in the vehicle. 5
- 6 Q. How important is it to get details right in a tow tag?
- 7 A. Details are pretty -- I mean, these are pretty, like,
- general, so I don't know, you know.
- 9 Q. Do you expect other law enforcement or prosecutors to
- ever rely on the tow tag information?
- 11 A. I don't know what other law enforcement agencies do. I
- 12 mean, I think -- to tell you the truth, I think we're
- 13 one of the last agencies that even hand prints a tow
- 14 tag. So I don't even know what they even put on their
- 15
- 16 Q. Automation hasn't come to Wayne County, huh?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 O. Okav.
- 19 A. Tell my carpal tunnel that.
- 20 Q. I understand. I've got a question here. You've got the
- 21 third line down toward the right, it says, Reason towed.
- 22 Do you see that box?
- 23 A. Right, uh-huh.
- 24 Q. Do you see a check on the box that says arrest?
- 25 A. Correct.

- Page 39
- Page 41 1 A. No. It says when it was turned -- after the vehicle was

that we actually remove from the vehicle would go on

identification purposes as Deposition Exhibit Number 3.

Is that kind of report what you meant by an inventory

WAS MARKED BY THE REPORTER

3 Q. So that's not an inventory report, correct?

DEPOSITION EXHIBIT 3

FOR IDENTIFICATION

9 Q. Corporal, I'm showing you what's marked for

13 A. This could be an inventory report, yes.

19 A. No, I believe that was Sergeant Glatfelter.

evidence that I took out of the car.

20 Q. Did you file or fill out any inventory report on this

22 A. I put on the notes on the tow tag and I filled out the

24 Q. But you didn't have a long report like this about what

15 A. This one that you just handed me?

14 Q. Did you fill out this report?

- impounded, it was actually -- the whole case was turned 2
- 3 over to Sergeant Glatfelter.

was in the car, correct?

- 4 Q. Is it policy that the officer who impounds the car does
- not fill out the inventory?
- 6 A. Not necessarily. Yeah.
- 7 Q. What's the policy?
- 8 A. Good question. But I know that other people have filled
- out tow -- I mean, inventory sheets on vehicles before.
- 10 Q. To your knowledge, there's no hard and fast rule about
- 11 which of you does that?
- 12 A. Uh-uh. No.
- 13 Q. That would be no.
- 14 A. Not that I know of.
- 15 Q. When you were at the Habich home on Romulus, excuse me,
- in Romulus on Olive --16
- 17 A. Wait, wait, Wait. I've got a question. How come the
- case number is different on here?
- 19 Q. That was a very good question. Do you have any
- 20 understanding of why that would be?
- 21 A. No.
- 22 Q. Where did you get your case number?
- 23 A. From my dispatch. Now, this could be the original case
- 24 number from Corporal Spaulding's case. That's why that
- 25 could be different. Okay. That makes sense.

1 Q. Why did you check that box?

- 2 A. Because it was involved in an investigation and it could
- be -- lead up to an arrest.
- 4 Q. Okay. But --
- 5 A. And I think he was informed of that, that he -- you
- know.
- 7 Q. But he hadn't --
- 8 A. He could be, he could be charged.
- 9 Q. But you weren't intending by that to say that he had
- 10 been arrested and this was --
- 11 A. No, he was not --
- 12 Q. -- seized incident to arrest?
- 13 A. He was not arrested at that time.
- 14 MS. DOWNEY: I'm going to mark this as Exhibit
- 15 2, please.
- **DEPOSITION EXHIBIT 2** 16
- 17 WAS MARKED BY THE REPORTER
- FOR IDENTIFICATION 18
- 19 BY MS. DOWNEY:
- 20 Q. We are looking at what we've marked for identification
- 21 as Deposition Exhibit Number 2. Can you tell me what
- 22 that report's called?
- 23 A. This is, this is what we call a PJ 400 and this is used
- 24 for, like, something if we take it out of the vehicle.
- 25 It could be a gun. Any type of contraband or anything



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sergeant?

to get the car back?

2 A. Uh-uh. We verbally tell them. We give them the copy of the -- like I said, a business card for a tow company,

and an investigation like this, I would give him my

8 Q. Is there any office in Wayne County, to your knowledge,

that a citizen can go to if they can't get ahold of the

sergeant works? You gave Mr. Habich a business card --14 A. The tow company. And then I gave him a piece of paper,

the number to our road patrol. So that was letting him know that that's my supervisor. This is my supervisor,

18 Q. Okay. Let's just mark this here as Deposition Exhibit 4 so that we're all talking about the same thing.

WAS MARKED BY THE REPORTER

24 Q. I've marked for identification as Deposition Exhibit

6 Q. What happens if the phone call doesn't get returned?

7 A. I've never had that problem so I don't know.

immediate supervisor's information.

11 A. He can come straight to our road patrol.

here's the contact number.

DEPOSITION EXHIBIT 4

FOR IDENTIFICATION

12 Q. Is there any way for the citizen to know where the

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- 1 Q. And did you read that report that Corporal Spaulding had
- made with that other number on it?
- 3 A. No. I've never even seen that report.
- 4 Q. Did you do anything else with regard to this case
- after --
- 6 A. After I impounded the vehicle?
- 7 Q. After you impounded the vehicle, you had no further --
- 8 A. Other than being asked questions, no.
- 9 Q. Did you have anything to do with taking care of the car
- while it was at the towing company?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. Did you ever go back and check on the condition of the
- 13 vehicle?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 O. When you were at the site and impounding the car, did
- you ever turn on that computer to find out what it was?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. Did you ever check the radio to find out whether it was
- 19 a ham radio or some other kind of radio?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 Q. Give me just a couple of minutes, corporal. I'm just
- 22 going to check a couple of things and see if I have any
- 23 other questions or not.
- 24 A. Okay.

1

25 Q. Okay. Thank you.

- Page 43
- 25 Number 4 a blown-up copy of the back of that card. Do

23 BY MS. DOWNEY:

- 1 you recognize that as your handwriting, sir?
 - 2 A. Which card are you talking about?
 - 3 Q. Okay. What I've got here is a blown-up copy of the back
 - side of the Martin's towing card that you handed to Mr.
 - Habich. Is that --
 - 6 A. That looks --
 - 7 Q. -- your handwriting?
 - 8 A. That looks like my writing. It could be, yes.
 - 9 Q. So that's the information that you gave him. It's got
 - 10 Wayne County Sheriff's Office. Is that Sergeant
 - Glatfelter? 11
 - 12 A. Correct.
 - 13 Q. And a phone number and a case number, correct?
 - 14 A. Correct.
 - 15 Q. It doesn't say anything about road patrol, does it?
 - 16 A. I work secondary roads. He was given all that
 - 17 information when I was there.
 - 18 Q. Not in writing, just --
 - 19 A. Oh, no, not in writing, but I did give him Sergeant
 - 20 Glatfelter's number, name and number and the case number
 - 21 and reference. That's what we do for everybody if we
 - 22 need to give them the supervisor's information.
 - 23 Q. Is that number the sergeant's personal number or a
 - number that rings at the desk or --
 - 25 A. That is a number at the office. That is an office

MR. STELLA: Do you want to go off the record

- 2 for a second?
- 3 (Discussion off the record).
- 4 BY MS. DOWNEY:
- 5 Q. Corporal, this car was not seized pursuant to any
- forfeiture law, was it?
- 7 A. Not that I know of.
- 8 Q. When you impounded the car, did you tell Mr. Habich that
- there was any way that he could get the car back?
- 10 A. I told him -- if I remember correctly, I gave him
- 11 Sergeant Glatfelter's number, contact number, and told
- 12 him that he needed to talk to him about how -- I think
- what was being investigated and what he would have to do 13
- 14 to get the car back.
- 15 Q. Did you give him any written form?
- 16 A. As in what?
- 17 Q. Any kind of a form from the county to tell him what to
- 18 do to appeal the seizure or to get the car back?
- 19 A. No, uh-uh. I didn't.
- 20 Q. Are you aware of any such form in existence?
- 21 A. I think if they do a seizure, they do, but at that
- point, I wasn't doing a forfeiture seizure, so. 22
- 23 Q. As far as you know, when it's impounding a car for
- 24 investigation, is there any form that Wayne County has
- 25 to give to the owner of the car to tell them what to do



Pages 46..49

Page 49

- 1 number.
- 2 Q. Who is --
- 3 A. I don't want these, do I?
- 4 Q. No, sir, you don't. When the phone rings at this
- 5 number, what desk is that phone at?
- 6 A. I think that goes to every phone, but we do have a desk
- 7 officer.
- 8 Q. Do you have an answering machine also?
- 9 A. I believe they do have an answering machine. I'm not
- 10 positive on that, though. I've never had to call that
- 11 number that I remember.
- 12 Q. There was nothing else in writing that you gave Mr.
- Habich that day, was there?
- 14 A. Uh-uh. Not that I remember, no.
- 15 Q. You know, I have a question about the Answer to the
- 16 Complaint and I ask to find out whether we have a
- 17 difference of opinion as to facts or as to law, so I'm
- going to just have this marked as Exhibit 5 so we know
- 19 what we're talking about.
- 20 DEPOSITION EXHIBIT 5
- 21 WAS MARKED BY THE REPORTER
- 22 FOR IDENTIFICATION
- 23 BY MS. DOWNEY:
- 24 Q. By the way, corporal, is this the first time you've ever
- been sued in a case arising from your duties?

- 1 annoyance and frustration, and the answer is, Denied as
- 2 untrue. Do you see that?
- 3 A. Yeah, I see it. It's exactly what you read.
- 4 Q. Okay. Do you have any information that Mr. Habich did
- 5 not suffer any damages here?
- 6 A. I have no information that he suffered any damages or
- 7 did not.
- 8 O. Okay. That's what I wanted to find out.
- 9 A. Yeah.
- 10 Q. Do you know whether Wayne County Sheriff's Department is
- 11 a department of Wayne County?
- 12 A. If Wayne County Sheriff's Department is a department of
- 13 Wayne County?
- 14 Q. Yeah.
- 15 A. Of the County of Wayne, it is.
- 16 Q. Okay. On page 14, paragraph 42, is there a reason that
- it says that you don't know whether that's true or not?
- Paragraph 42, it says the Wayne County Sheriff's
- 19 Department is a department of the government of
- 20 defendant Wayne County. Answer --
- 21 A. When did I say this?
- 22 Q. Well, there's an answer down there and that's why I'm
- 23 asking you --
- 24 MR. STELLA: Well, I'm going to interject
- 25 here, okay. I filed this Answer on his behalf and it

Page 4

- 1 A. I think I was named in one other suit before. A long
- 2 time ago.
- 3 Q. What was the allegation in that one?
- 4 A. If I remember correctly, it was -- it happened in
- 5 registry where an inmate attacked an officer and the
- 6 inmate was taken to the floor and he was injured and he
- 7 filed a lawsuit, and to tell you the truth, I don't even
- 8 know what happened in that lawsuit.
- 9 Q. Okay. How long ago was that?
- 10 A. Early 2000s, I think.
- 11 Q. Did you have to give testimony in that case?
- 12 A. No, I just came to one of these, and that was it, so.
- 13 Q. Do you know whether that was pending in the federal
- 14 courts or in the state courts?
- 15 A. I don't even remember, tell you the truth.
- 16 Q. Okay. Fair enough. I'm showing you what we marked as
- 17 Exhibit 5, which I will just tell you for your
- information is an Answer that was filed on your behalf
- in this case. And I seem to have lost track of my copy.
- 20 Oh, here it is. Okay. Great. There is an allegation
- on paragraph 39, if you go to that, on page 13, okay,
- 22 and it says that Plaintiff has suffered damages from the
- 23 seizure of his property, including loss of the property
- 24 itself, costs and efforts to obtain other
- 25 transportation, and mental anguish, humiliation,

- 1 supports -- to the extent that this is a legal
- 2 conclusion, the Wayne County Sheriff's Department isn't
- 3 a department of the county. It's, like, an independent
- 4 statutory creation within the government. So it's an
- 5 inaccurate legal description of what the Sheriff's
- 6 Department is.

- MS. DOWNEY: You know, I appreciate your
- 8 clarification, Mr. Stella, but I would --
- 9 MR. STELLA: That's why he lacks knowledge,
- because to the extent that that's a legal description of
- 11 the Sheriff's office, the corporal does not know that.
- 12 A. I don't remember even being asked the question you asked
- me before, so.
- 14 BY MS. DOWNEY:
- 15 Q. Okay. Did you ever read through the Complaint that was
- 16 filed in this case?
- 17 A. No, I haven't. Never did, tell you the truth.
- 18 Q. So this is the first time you're ever seeing it,
- 19 correct?
- 20 A. I believe so.
- 21 Q. Okay. Fair enough.
- 22 A. I believe so.
- 23 Q. Do you remember giving a statement under oath in this
- 24 case that you signed last November?
- 25 A. I remember talking. I don't remember if it was -- a



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Pages

- 1 Mittlestat arrived, we walked up the driveway and
- 2 observed Mr. Habich appearing to be working on another
- 3 vehicle off to the side of the driveway. Right there on
- 4 paragraph 9. You see that?
- 5 A. Okay.
- 6 Q. Did you confer with Deputy Mittlestat before you signed
- that? 7
- 8 A. Before I said that?
- 9 Q. Before you signed the paper giving this information?
- 10 A. I'm telling you what I saw when I walked up the
- 11 driveway.
- 12 Q. Right.
- 13 A. Okay?
- 14 Q. Right.
- 15 A. That's what I'm telling you. That's what I'm telling
- you in this.
- 17 Q. Yes. And in terms of the way this is written down, I'm
- asking you, did you confer with Deputy Mittlestat for
- 19 verification on any of this?
- 20 A. No, I don't think so.
- 21 Q. Okay.
- 22 A. Why would I?
- 23 Q. That's all I was --
- 24 A. I mean, it's right there in plain view.
- 25 O. That's all I wanted to know.

- 1 you've received at Wayne County since the beginning of
- your employment?
- 3 A. Sure. What do you --
- 4 Q. Do you have to go through the police academy at some
- point?
- 6 A. Yes, we do.
- 7 Q. And do you know what year that was?
- 8 A. 2002, I believe.
- 9 Q. And what general topics are taught at the police
- academy?
- 11 A. General?
- 12 Q. Yeah. What, in general, does a police academy
- curriculum include? 13
- 14 A. Been a long time. Well, you've got physical fitness.
- 15 You've got firearms training, defensive tactics
- 16 training, a little bit of legal training. What am I
- 17 forgetting.
- 18 Q. So there are other things that you may not remember?
- 19 A. Yeah.
- 20 Q. And do you have periodic training with Wayne County on
- various topics in the course of your career?
- 22 A. Yes. Some, yes.
- 23 Q. And can you kind of let us know, if you can remember,
- 24 what topics those were?
- 25 A. Well, actually, this goes back to the academy, too.
- Page 55
 - Like, your CPR training and I think it's called advanced 1 first responder or first responder training. We still
 - 3 do that. Taser training. We still qualify every year.
 - 4 It's kind of weird because we actually do training for
 - 5 jails even though we don't work in there. We do, like,
 - 6 suicide prevention, HIPAA, all types of training like
 - 7

2

- 8 Q. Okay. Is it fair to say you can't recall all the
- training you've received, all the names of the courses?
- 10 A. No, there's no way I would be able to remember all of
- 11
- 12 Q. When did you start with the Wayne County Sheriff's
- 13 Department, corporal?
- 14 A. May of 1997.
- 15 Q. So, corporal, you'd stated earlier that you were made
- aware of Corporal Paul Spaulding's encounter with Mr. 16
- 17 Habich; is that right?
- 18 A. I want to say it was on the 1st when I was given the
- 19 plate information. That's when I was made aware of it.
- 20 Q. And do you know Corporal Spaulding?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. And how long have you worked with him?
- 23 A. I think he started a year after me. So I've known him
- 24 about my whole career, off and on. We worked in
- 25 different areas.

1 A. Okay.

- 2 Q. That's fine. Like I said, I'm not asking you anything
- else about that. Okay. You know something, I think 3
- 4 that's all the questions that I have for you right now,
- 5 corporal, unless your lawyer has anything he wants to
- 6 follow up on.
- 7 MR. STELLA: I do, but can we take a 5-minute
- 8 break?
- 9 MS. DOWNEY: Sure.
- 10 (A recess was taken from 11:26 a.m. to 11:34
- 11 a.m.)
- 12 EXAMINATION BY MR. STELLA:
- Q. Hi, corporal, this is Davidde Stella. I have a few
- 14 questions for you about the incident at issue in this
- 15 case. As an initial matter, corporal, were you the
- officer in charge of this investigation? 16
- 17 A. I was the officer in charge up until we found the vehicle and it was impounded. 18
- 19 Q. Then did someone take over from you for the remainder of
- 20 the investigation?
- 21 A. Sergeant Glatfelter.
- 22 Q. And did you have any participation in the investigation
- 23 of this case after Sergeant Glatfelter took over?
- 24 A. Negative.
- 25 Q. Corporal, can you walk us through some of the training



11/03/2021

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24

4 A. Correct.

couple days.

neighbor somewhere?

was referring to.

do you know this guy?

3 Q. So you asked the neighbor?

5 O. What did the neighbor tell you?

Pages 58..61

- 1 Q. Okay. And you said that Sergeant Glatfelter asked you
- 2 to follow up on Corporal Spaulding's encounter with Mr.
- 3 Habich?
- 4 A. Correct.
- 5 Q. Do you remember what Sergeant Glatfelter told you about
- that incident? I know it's been some time.
- 7 A. I think he just made reference that there was an
- 8 incident on the expressway where the guy -- it was
- 9 determined that he was in a fake police car and that he
- 10 activated his lights to actually get away.
- 11 Q. Okay. And after Sergeant Glatfelter told you to look
- 12 into it, what did you do next?
- 13 A. Like I said earlier, I ran the plate, came back to a
- 14 Dearborn address. I believe Mr. --
- 15 Q. Okay. Let me stop you there. So you said you saw a
- Dearborn address. Did you look in the LEIN to find that 16
- address? 17
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 Q. And to your knowledge, does the LEIN system contain --
- 20 where does the LEIN system, if you know, get the address
- 21 in that database from?

over to the Dearborn address?

- 22 A. State of Michigan.
- 23 Q. So as far as you knew, Mr. Habich's official address was

1 Q. And you said -- do you know what time of day you went

3 A. Approximately? This report was done at 19:58. I'm

going to say probably an hour, hour and a half maybe

- 24 in Dearborn?
- 25 A. Correct.

2

5

- Page
- 1 come up with the owner of the vehicle if there's a

22 Q. Okay. And back up a little bit. So when you ran --

what did you look up first, the plate or the name?

25 A. I looked up the plate, and when you run the plate, they

- 2 registered owner of the vehicle.
- 3 Q. And so in LEIN, is the owner is the add -- do you know
- if the address that's associated, is that associated 4
- 6
- 6 Q. And you said you noticed some security cameras on the property?
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 Q. Do you know, can you tell us where those security
- cameras you saw were? 10
- 11 A. They were on the outside of the house and there was also
- 12 one on the door.

before that.

- 13 Q. When you went to the Dearborn address and knocked on the
- 14 front door, was there any indication that someone
- 15 actually lived there?
- 16 A. There was no indication that somebody didn't live there.
- 17 It didn't appear to be vacant, no, but it didn't appear
- 18 that anybody was there at the time.
- 19 Q. And did you say you talked to the neighbor across the
- 20 street?
- 21 A. I believe he lived directly across the street.
- 22 Q. And how did that conversation occur? Did you approach
- 23 the neighbor or did the neighbor approach you?
- 24 A. We were actually walking back to our vehicles and he was
- 25 in the middle of the road. I don't remember if it was,

like, a parking issue or what but I was just, like, Hey,

6 A. He told me that the guy lived there and I asked him, I

left and he said he was going to go stay with his

12 Q. Did the neighbor say where his girlfriend lived?

15 Q. And do you think you might have the name of that

17 A. I'm not positive. I'd have to go back and look. But I

believe that she might have been -- there was a lady

present when we took the vehicle. I never had any

conversation with her but that could have been who he

when you looked up in the LEIN, did you look up the --

He didn't even remember her name.

girlfriend for a little while. Either a little while or

13 A. He did not have any information on her that I remember.

think, when the last time he saw him and I think he said

a couple days or something like that and he said that he

- 5 with the registration of the plate or the licensing of
- the driver?
- 7 A. The plate -- the plate and the owner both came back to
- 8 the Firestone address. I don't remember if it was --
- 9 usually, when you run a plate, it'll come back and it'll 10 have the owner's information on the bottom and it'll
- 11 have his address and everything. And also when you run
- 12 the person's driver's -- his operator's license number,
- 13 it will come back to the same address.
- 14 Q. And so to your knowledge, that is the official State of
- 15 Michigan record of someone's address and licensing
- 16 address?
- 17 A. Correct.
- 18 Q. And the address to which the plate is registered?
- 19 A. In this incidence, yes.
- 20 Q. Okay. So how did you locate the Romulus address?
- 21 A. Sometimes when you run LEIN, it will give previous
- 22 addresses, okav. Because I remember -- I don't remember
- 23 off the top of my head. There might have been one or 2
- 24 addresses that I went to previously to the -- or I went
- 25 by previously to the Olive address. Or I use Google



Pages 62..65

Page 65

- 1 because Google still gives out information.
- 2 Q. And did Sergeant Glatfelter give you a description of
- 3 what the car looked like that they were looking for?
- 4 A. I don't actually remember that. I think he just said
- 5 something about a fake police car.
- 6 Q. Did he say what the model was? Do you recall?
- 7 A. I do not recall.
- 8 Q. But you don't recall whether he said it or not, not that
- 9 he didn't say it.
- 10 A. Right, right.
- 11 Q. So you said you might have went to one or 2 addresses
- before you arrived in Romulus?
- 13 A. Uh-huh.
- 14 Q. Is that a yes?
- 15 A. I'm sorry. Yes.
- 16 Q. And do you remember if you saw anything at those
- 17 previous addresses that piqued your interest?
- 18 A. No, I did not see anything at any other address.
- 19 Q. Were you in a marked car that day?
- 20 A. Yes, I was.
- 21 Q. Okay. Were you in uniform?
- 22 A. Yes, I was.
- 23 Q. So just to be clear, so is it your position that you
- could see from the street or the sidewalk the lights on
- 25 Mr. Habich's vehicle?

Page 63

- MS. DOWNEY: Object to form. You can answer.
- 2 BY MR. STELLA:

- 3 Q. You can answer.
- 4 A. Yeah, I could see them. They were visible.
- 5 Q. Is it your understanding that the possession of these
- 6 type of police lights are illegal under Michigan law?
- 7 A. Yes, they are.
- 8 MS. DOWNEY: Object to form.
- 9 A. They are illegal.
- 10 BY MR. STELLA:
- 11 Q. So I think you were asked about this but I don't think
- 12 you got your answer out. So did Mr. Habich at any point
- talk to you about the incident with Corporal Spaulding?
- 14 A. Yes, he did.
- 15 Q. And what did he tell you about that incident?
- 16 A. He told me -- I'd have to look at my report, but he made
- 17 the statement that he was getting on northbound I-275
- 18 from 94 and a red pickup truck was heading the same way
- 19 and the pickup truck crossed over 2 sets of white lines
- and almost caused an accident. He then told me that the
- 21 pickup got caught up in a bottleneck of traffic and he
- 22 caught up to the pickup. At this time, the owner told
- 23 me that the pickup truck -- the pickup was, like, 5 feet
- behind him and that he activated his lights to get him
- 25 to back off. After that, the owner said that he

- 1 followed the red pickup truck to Newburgh Road in
- 2 Livonia.
- 3 Q. And then did Mr. Habich indicate that the vehicle he was
- 4 talking about was the vehicle that was in his driveway?
- 5 MS. DOWNEY: Objection to form.
- 6 A. I'm sorry, repeat the question.
- 7 BY MR. STELLA:
- 8 Q. Did Mr. Habich indicate that the vehicle involved in the
- 9 incident with Corporal Spaulding was the same vehicle
- that was on his driveway?
- 11 MS. DOWNEY: Same objection.
- 12 A. It was -- we were talking about the same vehicle, yes.
- 13 BY MR. STELLA:
- 14 Q. Did Mr. Habich tell you at any point, like, where he got
- the lights from?
- MS. DOWNEY: Objection to form.
- 17 A. No. We never even had that conversation.
- 18 BY MR. STELLA:
- 19 Q. At any time, did you tell Mr. Habich that he was under
- 20 arrest?
- 21 A. No, I didn't.
- 22 Q. At any time, did Mr. Habich tell you to get off of his
- 23 property?
- 24 A. No, he didn't.
- 25 Q. At any time, did he tell you to leave?
- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. At any time, did he refuse to answer anything you asked
- 3 him?
- 4 A. No, he was pretty compliant.
- 5 Q. And you said that there was another individual there at
- 6 the time?
- 7 A. Yes, there was a female, but I never even had
- 8 conversation with her.
- 9 Q. Was she near your conversations or was she physically
- 10 somewhere else?
- 11 A. She walked around but she probably -- I mean, we're
- 12 having, like, conversation just like we are now so I'm
- 13 pretty sure she probably heard some of the
- 14 conversations.
- 15 Q. Did Mr. Habich say anything to her during this
- 16 encounter?
- 17 A. That I'm not sure. I don't remember if he did or not.
- 18 Q. When you were at Mr. Habich's house or the house in
- 19 Romulus, not necessarily Mr. Habich's house --
- MS. DOWNEY: Objection as to form.
- 21 BY MR. STELLA:
- 22 Q. Okay. Same question. At the house in Romulus is the
- 23 question.
- 24 A. At the --
- 25 Q. Did you see any security cameras at that location?



Pages 66..69

- 1 A. No, I did not notice any security cameras there.
- 2 Q. Did you know that your encounter with Mr. Habich was
- 3 being surreptitiously recorded?
- 4 MS. DOWNEY: Objection to form.
- 5 A. No.
- 6 BY MR. STELLA:
- 7 Q. And have you had a chance to review the video that was
- 8 provided to you about the incident?
- 9 A. Yeah, I looked at them.
- 10 Q. And was there any audio with that video?
- 11 A. I didn't hear no audio.
- 12 Q. Does the video's depiction of the events conform with
- 13 your memory today of what occurred?
- 14 A. Yeah, uh-huh.
- 15 Q. Was there anything on the video that you saw that jogged
- 16 your memory as to something you didn't remember about it
- 17 before?
- 18 A. I don't think anything jogged my memory at all.
- 19 Basically, it was cut and dry, I thought.
- 20 Q. Okay. So after you made the -- so did you make the
- 21 decision to impound the vehicle?
- 22 A. Yes, I did.
- 23 Q. Did Deputy Mittlestat have any input into that?
- 24 A. No. We don't go to a house as a single unit so that's
- 25 why he was -- I don't want to say summons. Why he was

- 1 A. Yes, I did.
- 2 Q. To your knowledge, did he ever call you about this?
- 3 A. I have never talked to him since the conversation in the
- 4 driveway.
- 5 Q. And would you know if he had tried to call the number
- 6 you had given him?
- 7 A. No, I would have no knowledge of that.
- 8 Q. Did you see Mr. Habich's vehicle again after the initial
- 9 towing?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. And you said that before the -- so you said you
- 12 performed an inventory search of the vehicle. Would
- that occur before or after the tow truck arrived?
- 14 A. That was before, as we were waiting for a tow truck.
- 15 Q. Do you know how long it took the tow truck to show up?
- 16 A. No, I don't. I'm not even going to guesstimate on that.
- 17 Q. I mean, would you think it was under an hour or, I mean,
- 18 is there a -- 30 minutes?
- 19 A. I would say under an hour.
- 20 Q. And do you know where Martin's tow yard is for vehicles?
- 21 A. It's in Brownstown.
- 22 Q. And have you been there before?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Was the trunk opened at any time when you were doing the
- 25 inventory search?

- 1 told to be there.
- 2 Q. At some point during the encounter, did you call
- 3 Sergeant Glatfelter?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. At what point did you call Sergeant Glatfelter?
- 6 A. I think I called him -- I drove by the house, then I
- 7 drove by again, and I think after that I said -- I
- 8 called him and I told him I thought, I think I found the
- 9 car
- 10 Q. Did you talk to him at all any more after that
- 11 conversation?
- 12 A. I believe after the car was impounded.
- 13 Q. So during this encounter with Mr. Habich, where was the
- 14 main location, you know, at which you were speaking with
- 15 him? On the driveway?
- 16 A. I would say most of our conversation between him and me,
- 17 I was either, like, on the driver's side in front of the
- vehicle or on the driver's side of the vehicle outside
- 19 the vehicle. So it would be, like, the south side of
- 20 the vehicle. I remember it was a north-south street.
- 21 Q. When you informed Mr. Habich of the decision to impound
- 22 the vehicle, did he protest?
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. And did you give him information about how he could
- 25 contact the Wayne County Sheriff's Office about it?

- 1 A. He -- well, he wanted to get some personal items out of
- there, and I believe he said he had tools in the trunk.
- 3 That's when the trunk was opened.
- 4 Q. Did he open the trunk or did you open the trunk?
- 5 A. I think Deputy Mittlestat opened it. We did not let him
- 6 open the trunk, I can guarantee that.
- 7 Q. Do you know if the trunk had a key or was it a button?
- 8 A. I could not remember that.
- 9 Q. And what happened after the trunk was opened?
- 10 A. I believe some tools were taken out of the trunk, and
- 11 then after we allowed him to get his personal belongings
- 12 that were left -- we walked around with him, just like I
- 13 said, because it was a safety thing. We don't want
- 14 nobody pulling out a gun or anything like that. Even
- 15 though it was checked, we don't know if there's a hidden
- 16 compartment. He walked around to the trunk and there
- was a hard drive, I believe they call it, like, for a
- 18 computer and he took out some discs out of that and he
- 19 either put them in his pocket or started to put them in
- 20 his pocket and I told him that he could not take them.
- 21 Q. Did you ask him to turn over the memory cards to you?
- 22 A. He handed them to me, yeah.
- 23 Q. Did he make any protest about that?
- 24 A. No, he didn't.
- 25 Q. Corporal, so do you understand the difference between a



Pages 70..73

- 1 civil forfeiture and a seizure for a criminal
- 2 investigation?
- 3 A. I believe I do.
- 4 Q. Do you work in a division that does anti-prosecution
- 5 work?
- 6 A. Me personally?
- 7 Q. Yeah.
- 8 A. No. No.
- 9 Q. So are you aware of the paperwork that has to be served
- 10 if civil forfeiture is sought?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And were you intending to effectuate a civil forfeiture
- 13 on this vehicle?
- 14 A. I was not, no.
- 15 Q. Okay. How long do you think your -- I mean, if you can
- 16 guess, how long do you think the whole, entire incident
- with Mr. Habich at the Romulus address lasted?
- 18 A. I wouldn't think -- I don't know. I wouldn't sav we
- 19 were -- we weren't there probably more than 45 minutes
- 20 to an hour. That might even be a stretch.
- 21 Q. Was Sergeant Glatfelter working the night that this
- 22 occurred?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. And did you speak with him when you returned to the
- station? Well, let me back up for a second. Where did
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 - you go after --
- 2 A. Me? I just went back on patrol, I believe.3 Q. Did you return to your station that night?
- 4 A. Yes.

- 5 Q. And did you see Sergeant Glatfelter?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. I'm going to ask you about a couple of these exhibits
- 8 real quick just to clarify some things. On Exhibit 6,
- 9 which was the last thing you were asked about --
- 10 A. I don't have them exhibits no more.
- 11 Q. Here, I'll give you my copy.
- 12 A. Am I supposed -- I don't keep them, do I?
- MS. DOWNEY: No, not at all. The lawyers keep
- 14 them.
- 15 BY MR. STELLA:
- 16 Q. Okay. Don't worry about the Mittlestat one, okay. So
- 17 what document are you looking at here?
- 18 A. Declaration of Corporal Wojciechowski.
- 19 Q. Did you review this document, you know, back when it was
- signed last year?
- 21 A. Did I review it?
- 22 Q. Yeah.
- 23 A. Tell you the truth, I don't remember this.
- 24 Q. But that is your signature, correct?
- 25 A. Yeah, it is.

- 1 O. And if you'd signed that document, does that mean you
- 2 have reviewed it?
- 3 A. Correct. Yeah.
- 4 Q. On Exhibit Number 3, which is the inventory form, do you
- 5 know what Sergeant Glatfelter's handwriting looks like?
- 6 A. For the most part, yeah.
- 7 Q. Does that look like Sergeant Glatfelter's handwriting to
- 8 you?
- 9 A. It could be.
- 10 Q. And on that form, typically, is the person doing the
- actual search of the car the person responsible for
- 12 filling that out?
- 13 A. Yes, he would have did this.
- 14 Q. And did you have anything to do with the search of the
- 15 vehicle?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. Okay. You can hand that back. And you said that the
- 18 fact that there are 2 different case numbers, one on the
- 19 Sergeant Glatfelter form and one, I guess, on Exhibit 2,
- 20 which is the document about the memory cards, --
- 21 A. Correct.
- 22 Q. -- you think that might be just because the case numbers
- 23 got associated with different incidents?
- MS. DOWNEY: Objection to form.
- 25 A. My case number is based off me impounding the vehicle.
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- 1 BY MR. STELLA:
- 2 Q. Okay. And so was --
- 3 A. It wasn't, like, a carry-over from the original case
- 4 number. I don't even know what that number is, so.
- 5 Q. All right. So in terms of the Declaration of Deputy
- 6 Mittlestat, have you ever seen that document before?
- 7 A. His document?
- 8 Q. Yeah.
- 9 A. No, I don't remember seeing it.
- 10 Q. On Exhibit Number 1, which is the impounded vehicle
- 11 report, can you read what it says in the narrative
- writing below just to make sure the handwriting is clear
- 13 for everyone?
- 14 A. Vehicle set up -- and I can't even read my own writing.
- 15 Vehicle was set up like a police vehicle, has police
- 16 lights and CAD, 3 chips taken out of security camera
- 17 mounted in vehicle.
- 18 Q. So when you were at the Romulus address, were you able
- 19 to walk around the car?
- 20 A. I could walk around it, yeah.
- 21 Q. Were you able to see anything inside the car?
- 22 A. You could see -- when I walked up the driver's side, we
- 23 could see in it.
- 24 Q. So in terms of what was actually in the -- where the
- 25 radio normally is in the car?



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- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. Have you ever encountered someone with a -- with what I
- would, you know, let's say colloquially as an imitation
- 4 police car?
- 5 A. Actually, I think it was a couple weeks later we had
- 6 another guy, almost the same incident.
- 7 Q. Were you involved in the investigation of that incident?
- 8 A. Actually, what happened with that one is somebody called
- 9 and said it looked like a police car had somebody pulled
- 10 over, and actually, when we got there, it was actually a
- 11 security car and the guy -- the person was actually
- 12 broke down. He was actually blocking traffic so they
- 13 wouldn't get creamed.
- 14 Q. Okay. But that was a -- but you were saying that that
- other car, that looked like a police car?
- 16 A. Yeah, it did, actually, tell you the truth.
- 17 Q. You said it was a security car?
- 18 A. Right. But it didn't have police lights, though. It
- 19 had flashing lights but there wasn't the blue and red
- 20 lights.
- 21 Q. So are you familiar with the different types of lights
- that are installed on Wayne County Sheriff's Department
- 23 vehicles?
- 24 A. I know what's installed on our road patrol vehicles.
- 25 Q. Are you familiar with what's installed on Detroit Police
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- 1 Department vehicles?
- 2 A. Not all of them, no.
- 3 O. You have a marked car, correct?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. You normally drive a marked car? Do you ever have to
- 6 drive unmarked cars?
- 7 A. I have.
- 8 Q. Do unmarked cars have lights in them?
- 9 A. Yes. They have light bars.
- 10 Q. And where are the lights normally located on an unmarked
- 11 car?
- 12 A. On an unmarked car, you either have them in the back
- window, mounted in the inside in the back window, in the
- 14 front window. You may have them in the grilles. The
- 15 taillights might be connected to them lights.
- 16 O. And what about a marked car?
- 17 A. Marked car is basically the same thing but also, like,
- 18 nowadays they also -- we have lights mounted on the
- 19 sides of our cars inside and outside the vehicle. In
- 20 the grille. Still, like, connected to the taillights
- 21 and the headlights.
- 22 Q. So are you familiar with how these lights are operated
- on marked cars?
- 24 A. How they work?
- 25 Q. Yes.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And are you familiar with how they work on unmarked
- 3 cars?
- 4 A. Yeah. For the most part, they're predominantly all
- 5 operated by a switch. It all depends on how many
- 6 switches.
- 7 Q. So when you arrived at the Romulus address on August
- 8 1st, what could you see about the vehicle? No, did you
- 9 see a white Dodge Charger in the driveway?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And was there anything about that white Dodge Charger
- that looked like it had police equipment on it?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And what were those things that you could see?
- 15 A. It had a push bar, but push bars aren't -- there's
- 16 regular cars that have push bars on them. Why they have
- 17 them, I have no idea. But as you look closer, you can
- see lights on the side of the push bar and also in the
- 19 grille area. And I think -- I don't remember if it was
- on my way back, because I went by it twice, or it was
- 21 when I actually walked up where I seen them inside the
- 22 window. The windshield.
- 23 Q. When you arrived at the Romulus address, did you think
- that this was Mr. Habich's home address?
- 25 A. No.

- 1 Q. In your mind, did you have any guess to what you might
- 2 have thought who lived there?
- 3 A. At that time, I didn't even think about who was living
- 4 there.
- 5 Q. Do you remember anything about the condition of the
- 6 Dodge Charger when you looked at it in terms of, like,
- 7 the physical shape of it?
- 8 A. Basically, take everything off of it, it looked like a
- 9 regular Dodge, white Dodge Charger.
- 10 Q. Well, in terms, I'm saying, was there -- were you seeing
- 11 any, like, paint loss or damage or --
- 12 A. I don't remember.
- 13 Q. -- did it look like well used or brand new? Do you have
- 14 any sense of that?
- 15 A. It looked clean but it didn't look like -- I don't
- 16 remember any damage on the vehicle or anything like
- 17 that. I'm pretty sure if there was damage, I would have
- 18 put it on the tow tag.
- 19 Q. I don't know if I asked you this before. Do you know
- 20 how long it took between the time you called Deputy
- 21 Mittlestat and how long it took him to arrive?
- 22 A. I want to say within 10 or 15 minutes from the time that
- dispatch dispatched him to me.
- 24 Q. I want to show Exhibit 1 to you one last time. On this
- document -- can you tell us what this document is?

